In the Claims

Please amend original claims 1-8 as shown below:

1. (Currently Amended) A separator made of elastic plastic and suitable for use in a lead storage battery, said separator consisting of sheet material with an inner region and two peripheral regions, and having ribs running in the longitudinal direction on at least one side, the ribs in the inner region being more widely spaced than those in the peripheral region, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that at least the first 3 ribs in the peripheral region that are adjacent to the inner region have a cross-section essentially in the form of a triangle projecting from the level of the sheet material, with the base of the triangle on the sheet material, one side of the triangle facing the inner region and the other side facing the periphery, the side facing the inner region being longer than that facing the periphery.

2. (Currently Amended) Separator according to Claim 1, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the side of the triangle facing the inner region is 1.5 to 15 times as long as the side facing the periphery.

3. (Currently Amended) Separator according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the side facing the inner region encloses an angle of 5° to 40° with the base.

4. (Currently Amended) Separator according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to 3~~ Claim 1, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the side facing the inner region encloses an angle of 75° to 115° with the side facing the periphery.

5. (Currently Amended) Separator according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the sheet material has a thickness of 0.05 to 0.35 mm.

6. (Currently Amended) Separator according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to 5~~ Claim 1, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that all the ribs in the peripheral region have the same cross-section.

7. (Currently Amended) Separator according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to 6~~ Claim 1, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that 3 to 30 ribs per cm are located in the peripheral region.

8. (Currently Amended) Lead storage battery containing a plurality of electrodes arranged parallel to one another, ~~neighbouring~~ neighboring electrodes possessing opposite polarities and the electrodes of at least one polarity each being enclosed in a separator in accordance with ~~one or more of Claims 1 to 7~~ Claim 1, that has been folded into a sheath and joined at the edges of the peripheral regions.

Please add new claims 9-19 as shown below:

9. (New) Separator according to Claim 2 characterized in that the side facing the inner region encloses an angle of 5° to 40° with the base.

10. (New) Separator according to Claim 2, characterized in that the side facing the inner region encloses an angle of 75° to 115° with the side facing the periphery.

11. (New) Separator according to Claim 3, characterized in that the side facing the inner region encloses an angle of 75° to 115° with the side facing the periphery.

12. (New) Separator according to Claim 3, characterized in that the sheet material has a thickness of 0.05 to 0.35 mm.

13. (New) Separator according to Claim 4, characterized in that the sheet material has a thickness of 0.05 to 0.35 mm.

14. (New) Separator according to Claim 4, characterized in that all the ribs in the peripheral region have the same cross-section.

15. (New) Separator according to Claim 5, characterized in that all the ribs in the peripheral region have the same cross-section.

16. (New) Separator according to Claim 5, characterized in that 3 to 30 ribs per cm are located in the peripheral region.

17. (New) Separator according to Claim 6, characterized in that 3 to 30 ribs per cm are located in the peripheral region.

18. (New) Lead storage battery containing a plurality of electrodes arranged parallel to one another, neighboring electrodes possessing opposite polarities and the electrodes of at least one polarity each being enclosed in a separator in accordance with Claim 2, that has been folded into a sheath and joined at the edges of the peripheral regions.

19. (New) Lead storage battery containing a plurality of electrodes arranged parallel to one another, neighboring electrodes possessing opposite polarities and the electrodes of at least one polarity each being enclosed in a separator in accordance with Claim 7, that has been folded into a sheath and joined at the edges of the peripheral regions.